

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 46-47, 54, 61-67 and 71 are cancelled, and claims 48, 55 and 68 are amended. Claims 49-53, 56-60 and 69-70 remain in the application. Thus, claims 48-53, 55-60 and 68-70 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 3 on page 8 of the Office Action, that claims 48-53, 55-60 and 68-70 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 48 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 46 and 47.

Claim 55 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 46-47 and 54.

Claim 68 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in cancelled claims 63 and 64.

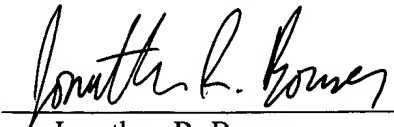
Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's assertion that claims 48-53, 55-60 and 68-70 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 48, 55 and 68, as well as claims 49-53, 56-60 and 69-70 which depend therefrom, are clearly in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Tsutomu TANAKA et al.

By: 
Jonathan R. Bowser
Registration No. 54,574
Attorney for Applicants

JRB/nrj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
July 20, 2006